

**Borough of  
Royal Leamington Spa**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1958

BY

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

**Warwickshire Combined Districts**

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**Leamington Spa**

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1959





38, HOLLY WALK,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

1st September, 1959.

**To the Council of the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa**

Mr. MAYOR, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report for the year 1958. The summer was exceptionally wet but the records of health and disease gave no cause for disappointment. A rise in the birth rate combined with a fall in the death rate and a freedom from epidemic disease to make this one of the healthiest years on record.

Much of the department's activity related to devising an effective programme to rid the atmosphere of injurious products of combustion which now pollute it. The Beaver Report envisaged that this might take some fifteen years. Accomplishment of the local tasks within this time will depend upon careful staging and an early start so that necessary expenditure is spread over a term of years and demands upon the time of health inspectors and upon those responsible for the supply of smokeless fuels do not become excessive in any one year. The Council is participating in a county wide scheme to measure and record the density of smoke, the deposition of solid matter and the concentration of certain toxic gases in the atmosphere. The data, to be collected over a period of years, will provide evidence as to local conditions which will be a more reliable guide than statements based more upon a personal opinion or prejudice than scientific data. The industrial output of grit, dust and dark smoke has been controlled by the Clean Air Act. Domestic chimneys are singly less objectionable than industrial stacks but their very number and nature accounts for a great part of the pollution which is experienced in built-up areas and is injurious to health. Therefore, the Council in promoting smoke control areas is acting upon known facts so as to safeguard the health of the public. Any costs incurred in securing this aim have to be measured against the great loss of working time annually due to Bronchitis and respiratory infections and to probable shortening of the life span of elderly and bronchitic subjects.



Mention was made last year of complaints investigated regarding the sale of foodstuffs which were not of the quality demanded by the purchaser. This year the number of these complaints grew and it was necessary to take court proceedings for a list of twelve offences which are summarized in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Some criticisms were heard of the line of action pursued by the Council but it is difficult to come to any conclusion other than that all the offences could have been avoided given a reasonable standard of supervision and care.

New Milk and Dairies regulations are to come into force in March, 1959, and provide :—

- (1) for registration of distributors only with the local authority of the Area where the premises are situated from which the milk is distributed.
- (2) for hygienic measures regarding personal cleanliness and health.
- (3) for action to prevent the contamination or infection of milk.
- (4) for bottles, which have contained certain other foods, now to be cleansed in a milk room.

As a result of government circulars, this Council has taken part in discussions with other local authorities as to the regrouping of water undertakings and it seems probable that, subject to the approval of the responsible Minister, a Joint Water Board will be formed.

A number of other matters fall to be reported briefly. Following the death of the Keeper, the Council refused to renew the licence of the last common lodging house left in the borough and it was closed down.

The Housing Committee has appointed a co-ordinating sub-committee to advise upon social problems where the breaking up of a family may result from normal action to secure clearance of rent arrears or observance of tenancy conditions. Several meetings have been held and it is probable that this machinery will prove to be of value.

The Mass Radiography Unit of the Regional Hospital Board agreed to visit Leamington Spa upon a fixed day each month throughout the year, a service which is primarily intended to assist local doctors. The Local Health Authority has gone forward with the plans to design and build clinic premises combined with nurses' residences at Crown Way,

Lillington. The County and Borough Councils have also agreed fresh terms for the leasing by the latter to the former of certain parts of Hamilton House for use as a Health Clinic.

Throughout the period reviewed there has been a full complement of health inspectors.

Throughout the year I have met with much kindness, interest and support from the members of the Council for which I am truly grateful. It is also a pleasure to acknowledge the help and cordial co-operation of fellow officers, especially of the Chief Public Health Inspector and his colleagues.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF  
THE BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA

*Medical Officer of Health :*

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health :*

C. T. JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Chief Public Health Inspector :*

*Borough Shops Act Inspector :*

A. J. SMITH, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.I.S.A.A.

*Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :*

F. C. HILLS, M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health Inspectors :*

P. D. ARROWSMITH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

K. G. RAPLEY, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Clerks :*

A. H. STALWORTH

Mrs. R. WALTON

*Disinfector :*

W. JACKSON

*Rodent Operative :*

P. JACKSON

*Public Analysts :*

F. G. D. CHALMERS, M.A., B.Sc., F.I.C.

R. K. CHALMERS, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

# Borough of Royal Leamington Spa

## A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1958	...	...	39,220
Area of Borough	...	...	2,875 acres
Public open spaces	...	...	126.42 acres
Product of Id. rate	...	...	£2,292 12s. 3d.
Total number of permanent dwellinghouses and flats on 31/3/1958	...	...	11,669
Birth Rate (Crude)	...	...	21.0
Birth Rate (Corrected)	...	...	20.4
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	19.0
Death Rate (Crude)	...	...	11.0
Death Rate (corrected)	...	...	9.9
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	From Sepsis ,, other causes		— —
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	23.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	23.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	20.0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
,,     ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
,,     ,, Anterior Poliomyelitis (all ages)	...	...	—

This year births rose for the first time above the 800 mark and the death rate was a low one. Births exceeded deaths by 392 and the rise in total population was 280. Thus migration into the district was not substantial as in past years.

Three deaths arose from Leukaemia, as against one in 1956 and four in 1957.

The chief causes of death were unchanged. Two deaths were due to suicide and the loss of life by motor accidents was six. Tuberculosis killed only two people whereas accidents, other than those due to motor vehicles accounted for fifteen deaths. More than five per cent. of all deaths therefore were due to suicide or violence.



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

*Laboratory Facilities.*—The following examinations were made at the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry, during 1958.

	Positive	Negative	Total
SWABS (from throat or nose) examined for Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
DYSENTERY/FOOD POISONING ...	—	8	8
TUBERCULOSIS ... ..	1	—	1
BLOOD ... ..	—	—	—

In addition to the above many specimens are examined annually for Tuberculosis and numerous throat swabs and stool cultures for dysentery, etc., are examined in hospital laboratories.

### LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES (WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

*Infant Welfare Centres.*—The following Centres are held within the Borough :—

4, Hamilton Terrace ...	Thursdays and Fridays, 2 p.m.
No. 1 Community Centre, Tachbrook Road ...	Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Bowling Club, Lime Avenue, Lillington ... ..	Mondays, 2 p.m.
Community Centre, Crown Way, Lillington ...	1st and 3rd Fridays, 2 p.m.

Local enquiries regarding Home Help, After-care, Health Visiting, Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Services to Area Health Office, 38, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa ('Phone 2998 and 2999). National Welfare Foods are distributed at numerous official and voluntary distribution points in the Borough, details of which have been publicly advertised.

*Ambulance facilities.*—The County Council's Ambulance Depot at Lakin Road, Warwick (Telephone No. Warwick 86) serves the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa.

*Hospital services.*—Maternity cases are admitted to the Cay Block of the Warneford Hospital. Tuberculosis patients may be admitted at Hertford Hill Sanatorium and mental illness is treated at the Central Hospital, Hatton.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

*Water.*—The town's water is taken in part from deep wells or boreholes and in part by abstraction from the River Leam. River water is filtered and chlorinated and frequent analyses are made. Bulk supplies are also sold to the Southam Rural District Council so that abstraction from the River Leam is substantial.

1. The quality is of drinkable standard though the water is hard for certain domestic purposes. Troubles have occasionally arisen from iron deposits or tastes due to algae but special measures are taken to combat these.

2. Bacteriological examinations are made of the raw and filtered river waters weekly. Bacteriological examinations of the well waters are not made before treatment (which is only chlorination) but results of treatment have been satisfactory. Chemical analysis is made of all well water monthly and of the raw and filtered river water weekly.

3. The water is not plumbo-solvent and contains no excess of any metallic element.

4. Chlorination plants, installed at sources of supply, have operated satisfactorily. No contamination has been reported. After repairs mains are isolated, sterilized and flushed out.

5. 11,937 houses in the town now have an internal piped supply serving 38,524 persons. This leaves 416 people resident in 104 houses without a satisfactory internal supply of water. The new service reservoir at Campion Hills has given enough supply pressure for all but a few tall flats and buildings. The supply to those presents a special problem.

## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF RIVER WATERS

Water analysis results expressed in parts per million.  
Received on 15th October, 1958.

Description : U.F.C. 742. Unfiltered River Water and  
Leicester Lane and Lillington Wells.

F.C. 742. Filtered River Water.

			<i>U.F.C.</i>	<i>F.C.</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia	...		0.082	0.092
Albuminoid Ammonia	...		0.576	0.384
Chlorine in Chlorides	...		22.0	31.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	... ..		1.5	1.5
Oxygen absorbed from per- manganate at 80° in 4 hours			6.4	3.2
Total Solids dried at 100° C.	...		560	560
Appearance : U.F.C. Turbid, few large particles.				
F.C. Slightly turbid, few small particles.				
Hardness	{ Temporary	...	220	195
	{ Permanent	...	150	175
	{ Total	... ..	370	370
Nitrite	... ..		0.004	Absent
Metals	... ..		—	—
Free Chlorine	... ..		—	0.15
pH Value	... ..		7.85	7.52
Lead	... ..		Absent	Absent
Dissolved Carbon Dioxide	...		6.0	14.5
Copper and Zinc	... Less than		0.05	0.05
Alkalinity as Carbonate	...		150.0	123.0

Date 15/10/58, at 10-30 a.m.

Rate of Filtration 50,000 gallons per hour.

Position at which taken : Filter House.

Alumina Dose : 4.28 grains per gallon.

Copper Sulphate : 0.80 parts per million.

Whether or not dosed with Chlorine : Yes. 4.80lbs./hour.

Residual Chlorine : 1.40 P.P.M.

S.O.2 After Filtration : Auto .25lbs./hour.

Immediate : .70. Final = .30 To supply = .15 P.P.M.

After 20 mins. : .60.

Remarks :

River in good condition subsiding.

Flow = 80 MG/D.

Hazen Raw = above scale. Treated = 15A.

Taste good.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

1. New mains laid in 1958 :—			<i>Yards</i>
Town Water Mains	...	...	5887
River Water Mains	...	...	Nil

2. Amount of Water pumped in 1957 :—

<i>Corporation Source</i>				<i>Gallons</i>
From	Campion Terrace	...	...	26,569,000
„	Lillington	...	...	103,022,000
„	Brewery Well	...	...	Nil
„	Leicester Lane	...	...	39,424,000
„	River (filtered)	...	...	584,522,000
„	River (unfiltered)	...	...	65,251,000
<i>Other Authorities</i>				<i>Gallons</i>
Taken from Warwick R.D.C.			...	1,826,000
Water supplied to Warwick R.D.C. }				150,404,000
Water supplied to Southam R.D.C. }				

3.	Daily consumption of Town Water per head	...	...	...	...	...	42.56
	River Water supplied to Residents per head	...	...	...	...	...	2.49
	River Water supplied annually to Railway Companies	...	...	...	...	...	41,226,000

*Swimming Baths.*—The new baths have proved to be a valuable and popular amenity. The purification plant has operated satisfactorily as proved by analyses made from time to time.

Total number of swimmers (1958)	...	...	206,928
Weekly average (summer)	...	...	5,553
„ (winter)	...	...	2,825

*Sewerage.*—Considerable preparatory work, research and design was carried out with a view to enlargements to the Sewage Disposal Works for which a contract has since been let.

*Scavenging.*—The destructor plant handled this year 11,011 tons of refuse as compared with 11,455 in 1957. A regular weekly collection for private householders has been maintained. In view of the large amount of trade refuse in certain parts of the town it has been decided to make a collection charge.



## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

*Incidence of Major Infectious Diseases since 1951.*

		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1951	...	1	9	—	27	1	36
1952	...	—	46	—	11	1	35
1953	...	—	46	—	49	10	39
1954	...	—	20	—	41	2	51
1955	...	—	36	—	36	5	38
1956	...	—	17	—	39	—	1
1957	...	—	6	—	47	18	8
1958	...	—	8	—	31	—	2

*Diphtheria.*—Once again a year went by without the notification of a single case of this disease which is a tribute to the value of immunization in childhood. The local health authority's officers have been successful once again in securing a high rate of acceptance by parents as will be shown by the 1958 figures which are most satisfactory.

The details were as follows :—

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Children under 5 years	659	506	603	564	538
Children 5 to 14 years	48	29	54	101	97
Children given booster doses        ...        ...	630	342	466	781	931

*Whooping Cough (Pertussis).*—In 1958, 647 children were given prophylactic injections and a combined Diphtheria/Pertussis suspended vaccine was employed except for children who had already been immunized against Diphtheria.

In this area it is the practice to use the combined vaccine against both diphtheria and whooping cough so that the immunization figures for the latter are also high. The use of the combined vaccine is held in some quarters to be less safe than that of the two vaccines singly. No harm has arisen locally from use of the combined vaccine and it is a simpler programme to carry out than the larger series of injections necessary when single antigens are used.



*Poliomyelitis*.—Good progress was made with the vaccination scheme owing to improved supplies both of imported and British vaccine.

The local health authority's medical and nursing staff had by the end of the year inoculated a cumulative total of 19,461 persons. Happily no case of the disease was notified in 1958.

*Suspected Food Poisoning*.—On March 6th a report was received that a number of children attending the local schools had symptoms of food poisoning and that all had partaken the previous day of a school dinner at which cold pressed tongue was served. This meal had been prepared at a school kitchen which sent out meals also to other local school departments.

Out of 405 meals supplied, 108 children and adults were subsequently affected by colic and diarrhoea during the night of March 5th/6th. The matter was investigated with the full co-operation of the Canteen Supervisor, County Health Inspector and Bacteriologist of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

It was possible to establish by direct culture that both the remnants of cold tongue and the metal trays on which it had been kept gave a heavy growth of *Clostridium Welchii*. This organism, which is resistant to heat, is often present in dressed carcase meat. In this case it appeared that the boiling period was on the short side, that unsuitable deep containers were used for pressing and that probably the meat was placed in refrigeration before it had been well cooled. These things were brought to the notice of the proper authority and, as a result of the inspections, the opportunity was taken to renew worn fittings and equipment. The standard of cleanliness of the premises concerned was satisfactory throughout and it is likely that a simple error of judgment as regards the manner of cooling allowed the multiplication in the meat of pathogenic organisms which were present in its substance when delivered. The symptoms of the illness were mild and few children were away for more than one day. Few indeed seem to have required medical attention as not one notification of food poisoning was received and indeed the events came to notice by chance.

# TUBERCULOSIS

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Transfers into District				Deaths			
	Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	1	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	5	3	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	3	2	—	—	5	3	1	—	—	—	—	1
35-45	3	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-55	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55-65	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	23	13	2	3	13	10	1	1	1	—	—	1

		1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Cases	...	28	23	43	26	40	45	43
Deaths	...	8	5	10	23	22	17	22
		1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Cases	...	42	38	65	25	46	42	30
Deaths	...	19	11	24	26	18	6	12
		1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Cases	...	53	68	57	73	98	57	66
Deaths	...	4	4	6	6	5	4	2

B.C.G. Vaccine was administered to 74 persons of whom 12 were adults and 62 children. The latter were all child contacts.

39 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for treatment at a Sanatorium and 30 were discharged.

The Miniature Mass Radiography Unit paid six visits to the town. This was under a new experimental programme whereby the Unit will be at Hamilton House on one fixed day each month. Special publicity is not given to these visits as they are intended to handle patients referred for investigation by local doctors. It was possible to examine all the pupils at one school on one of these days.

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948**  
**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951**

Where elderly, sick or infirm persons are found to be living in neglected and insanitary conditions and are not obtaining proper care or attention the Council has authorised the Medical Officer of Health to take action in its behalf by application before a magistrate or a court of summary jurisdiction for the removal of the said person to a hospital or institution.

From time to time the Council is called upon to arrange for the burial of the dead and this action, under the powers of Section 50, has been entrusted to the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Details follow of three persons reported during 1957 as needing proper care and attention.

*Case 1. Mrs. C—* This case appeared in the 1957 report. After a prolonged period of institutional care her health deteriorated further and she died in hospital.

*Case 2. Mr. B—* (80) was reported by nurses to be ill and living in insanitary rooms at the rear of a disused shop. He was persuaded to enter hospital for treatment of a heart condition. Later, as he was found to have ample private means, he took his discharge to live with relatives.

*Case 3. Mr. L—* An elderly eccentric was taken to hospital after being found gassed and unconscious. Considerable supervision was needed before he could return home owing to the dirty conditions and the neglected state of the gas fittings. At one stage it was necessary to threaten application to Court for a removal order before an improvement resulted.

## **MORTUARY**

The attendant here has again been Mr. H. Barnett. 129 bodies were received and 127 post mortem examinations carried out on the premises which exceeds the work undertaken last year. The Council therefore decided to increase the allocation of time for this work in the next financial year.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS**

Numerous samples of ice-cream were taken and showed a general rise in keeping quality. Milk samples showed that pasteurisation was usually adequate but the methylene blue test, indicative of keeping quality, was not satisfied by pasteurised milk in too many instances.

*Ice Cream.*—The number of samples taken was much in excess of previous years. Out of 116 tests made only four were classed as Grade III and none in Grade IV. This shows a definite improvement upon the record of some previous years and thanks are due to the Medical Director and Staff of the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry, for examining the samples submitted.



*Milk.*—Samples submitted for the purpose of checking the pasteurized milks showed in the great majority that the process of heat treatment had been properly carried out in accordance with the Regulations. However, more than one quarter of 72 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test of keeping quality. This is, of course, in breach of the conditions of the dealers' licences and the public is entitled to expect better things of milk marketed under a quality designation.

*Watercress.*—Concern was expressed by the Council at the frequency with which bacteria of excremental origin were grown in culture from consignments of fresh watercress. Being a perishable commodity it is not possible to hold up sales pending analysis nor does it seem reasonable to assume that a particular batch is unfit for human consumption and deal with it as such in the absence of specific evidence of contamination. The matter was referred to the Health Committee of the Association of Municipal Corporations and also to the district councils for the producing areas. As a result of action by some of the latter, an improvement was noted in results of sampling.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955**

### **SECTION 31**

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk  
Samples for Biological Examination during  
the Year 1958—Nil.

## **HOUSING, 1958**

Number of houses built in the town during 1958 :—

(a)	By the Local Authority	...	...	164
(b)	By Private Enterprise	...	...	144

The number of houses owned by the Corporation is 2,934

The number of Prefabricated Bungalows is ... 113



# REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ending December 31st, 1958

*Administration.*—No further staff changes took place during the year under review and steady progress was made with the clearance and repair of unfit houses, with clean air and clean food which are the primary responsibilities of the Public Health Inspector's Department. Details of these activities will be found elsewhere in this report.

*Housing.*—Only one large group of unfit dwelling-houses, Covent Garden Market, remains to be dealt with as a Clearance Area; the other unfit houses in the Slum Clearance Programme will be dealt with by means of Closing or Demolition Orders. The Medical Officer of Health submitted representations regarding the King Street Clearance Area in October and a Public Enquiry appears to be likely having regard to the large number of objections made at the time of its publication.

A large number of individual unfit houses in the centre of the town, including the last of the back-to-back houses in Park Street, were made the subject of Closing or Demolition Orders during the year.

The number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act steadily fell off as the year progressed.

*Clean Air.*—A regular and uniform system for the measurement of air pollution was begun in July and forms part of a scheme covering the whole of Warwickshire. Eventually this will provide accurate and scientific information of the greatest value in the nation-wide campaign for clean air and a yard-stick for measuring the progress made.

A five-year programme for Smoke Control Areas affecting nearly one-half of the town was drawn up, the areas being distributed north and south of the river. The coming into operation of these areas will result in a substantial part of the town being made subject to smoke control at very little cost to the ratepayers, although the cost of extending them will undoubtedly be much higher, as older buildings will be included with grates which will, in the majority of cases, need conversion.

As a result of consultations with the managements of factory and commercial premises a number of them announced their intention of installing mechanical stokers or otherwise to effect improvements. Following strong representations to the Minister of Health the South Warwickshire Hospital Board finally agreed to replace the existing apparatus at the Warneford Hospital by oil-firing, which should result in the elimination of one of the most persistent sources of atmospheric pollution in this town.

At the Imperial Foundry research continues to find the best practicable method for minimising the nuisance there, but this problem is one that is both difficult and costly to solve.

*Clean Food.*—All food premises, including licensed premises, have now been inspected and many follow-up visits made to ensure that the necessary alterations and improvements have been carried out. The details given on page 24 indicate what has already been accomplished and whilst a good deal more remains to be done the results so far achieved are very satisfactory. The response of shopkeepers to requests to carry out such work has been good and in part may be attributed to the reasonableness of such requests and to the helpfulness of the District Inspectors concerned.

There remains, however, the practice of a small number of shopkeepers, mainly grocers and greengrocers, of displaying fruit and vegetables in open boxes on the pavements or forecourts in front of their shops where these commodities are exposed to the risk of contamination by passers-by, animals, flies, dust and fumes from vehicles. It is understood that the shopkeepers concerned claim that this method of display greatly increases their sales but it is to be hoped that the practice will soon cease. Apart from the risk of contamination involved these displays are often unsightly being made up of old boxes and improvised stands, frequently to be seen directly in front of a new and attractive shop front.

*Food and Drugs.*—The increased number of prosecutions for selling food not of the nature, substance, or quality demanded by the purchaser, caused uneasiness in some quarters but there is ample evidence that substantial improvements have resulted in methods of manufacture and of distribution which fully justify the policy being pursued. Too often have cases been brought to our notice where customers' complaints to the shopkeepers have received scant consideration and no promise given to see that everything would be done to prevent such things happening again.



Our Public Analysts, Mr. Chalmers and his son, were again very helpful in indicating varieties of food and drugs most likely to be found to be below standard or not properly described on the labels, and their advice was always readily available. Mr. F. C. Hills continued to be responsible for the sampling arrangements.

*Meteorological Station.*—Mainly on the ground that the meteorological station was an eyesore and partly on account of the expense, the Council decided to discontinue the taking and recording of weather observations which had been done since January, 1912, and as a consequence the apparatus in the Pump Room Gardens was dismantled. It was not possible to move it to another site as none could be found which would comply with the requirements of the Meteorological Office. However, one may eventually be found in the grounds of the College of Further Education at “Thornbank” and the observations will be made by members of the staff and pupils. In this event the instruments from the Pump Room Gardens will be handed over to the College authorities.

It should be recorded that successive Sanitary Inspectors, and latterly Mr. A. H. Stalworth, made these daily observations, including during the war years, entirely on a voluntary basis. These valuable records will be kept in the Public Health Department and made available to enquirers.

**Complaints.**—The number of complaints continued to fall, a total of 414 being received. Again the largest number concerned bad housing conditions (136) followed by infestation by rats or mice (62) and defective drainage(57).

**Notices—Public Health Act, 1936.**—122 informal notices and 41 abatement notices were served, the majority of which were to secure the remedy of housing defects. Of these, 60 were complied with informally and 43 after the service of formal notices. The defects were remedied at one house after a court order had been obtained.

**Leamington Corporation Act, 1952.**—Section 81 of the above Act enables the public health inspectors to require owners, by notice, to remove obstructions from stopped up drains, etc., within 48 hours. When the work is not done within the time stipulated the Local Authority is authorised to do the work in default and recover the cost. 24 such notices were served. In 13 cases the work was carried out by the owner in the specified time and in 11 cases it was done by the Borough Engineer's Department.

**Visits and Inspections.**—The number of housing inspections and visits to food premises remained fairly constant but there was a considerable increase in the number of factory inspections and visits under the Rent Act, 1957. Over 2,000 visits were made for the purpose of survey in the Smoke Control Areas.

**Summary of visits and inspections and work done during the year**

Inspections of food shops and premises	...	...	1,007
Inspections of factories	...	...	156
Inspections of dairies	...	...	7
Housing Inspections, re-inspections and inspections of work in progress	...	...	2,101
Visits re Rent Act, 1957	...	...	146
Housing allocation enquiries	...	...	102
Drainage inspections	...	...	113
Drains tested	...	...	22
Visits re dustbins	...	...	10
Visits re offensive accumulations	...	...	23
Visits re Clean Air Act	...	...	36
Smoke observations made	...	...	119
Visits re Smoke Control Areas	...	...	2,115
Visits re rodent control	...	...	63
Visits re Merchandise Marks Act	...	...	182
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	1,510
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis	...	...	152
Other samples taken for bacteriological examination :—			
Ice Cream	...	...	116
Watercress	...	...	13
Milk (Special Designations)	...	...	208
Water—Swimming Bath	...	...	19
Therapeutic Pool	...	...	19
Paddling Pool	...	...	7
Others	...	...	19
Visits in relation to notifiable infectious diseases	...	...	22
Rooms disinfected	...	...	25
Steam disinfections	...	...	19
Books disinfected	...	...	302
Bundles of clothing disinfected	...	...	15
Rooms disinfested	...	...	271
Persons cleansed	...	...	22

**Common Lodging House.**—Following the death of the registered keeper of a common lodging house an application was received from his widow for registration. In view of the unsatisfactory conditions at the property the application was refused and its use was discontinued.



## HOUSING

Confirmation was received of the Althorpe Street Clearance Order which was submitted in 1957. The Portland Row Clearance Order was submitted and confirmed and the King Street area was represented. There has been a considerable increase in the number of notices served under Section 9 and the work required by these notices is proceeding slowly but satisfactorily.

53 demolition and closing orders were made in respect of individual unfit houses and 60 houses were demolished.

### Action under S.42 H.A., 1957

1. Number of houses in respect of which official representations were made	...	...	...	99
2. Number of unfit houses in respect of which Clearance Orders or C.P.O's were confirmed	...	...	...	213
3. Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	15

### Action Under Ss. 16, 17 and 28, H.A., 1957

1. Number of houses in respect of which official representations were made	...	...	...	41
2. Number of demolition orders made	...	...	...	36
3. Number of closing orders made	...	...	...	17
4. Number of closing orders replaced by demolition orders	...	...	...	3
5. Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	60

### Action under S.18 H.A., 1957

1. Number of parts of buildings in respect of which official representations were made	...	...	...	6
2. Number of closing orders made	...	...	...	6
3. Number of closing orders becoming effective by vacation of parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	1

### Action under S.9 H.A., 1957

1. Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	67
2. Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	10
3. Number of formal notices served	...	...	...	24

### Action taken under Housing Acts since 1925

Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	367
Houses and parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	90
Undertakings given in lieu of demolition orders and closing orders on dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	14
Demolition orders made but houses not yet demolished	...	...	...	...	83
Basement dwellings closed	...	...	...	...	115
Undertakings given in lieu of closing orders on parts of buildings	...	...	...	...	14

## RENT ACT, 1957

The number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair has remained small. Those that have been received have been dealt with quickly and generally to the satisfaction of the tenants and landlords.

### Applications for Certificates of Disrepair

(1)	Number of applications for certificates ... ..	43
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue certificates ...	Nil
(3)	Number of decisions to issue certificates :—	
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects ...	20
	(b) in respects of all defects ... ..	20
(4)	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ... ..	19
(5)	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ... ..	Nil
(6)	Number of Certificates issued ... ..	20

### Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

(7)	Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates ... ..	21
(8)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates ... ..	5
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection ... ..	1
(10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority ...	12

## CARAVANS

There are no licensed caravan sites within the borough boundary.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

146 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst during the year who certified 121 to be genuine and 25 not genuine.

Sampling of the raw milk coming into the town continues to be done by the County Sampling Officer before delivery to the pasteurising plant.

<i>Article</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Apples ... ..		1	1	
Beverage ... ..		1	1	
Bread and Butter ...	3		3	
Butter ... ..		6	6	
Cake Mix ... ..		1	1	
Canned Cream ...		2	2	
Canned Fish and Paste		14	13	1
Canned Strawberries...		1	1	
Canned Meat ... ..		16	14	2
Canned Beans ... ..		1	1	
Cheese Spread ...		7	5	2
Cream and Raspberry Sponge ... ..		1	1	
Dates ... ..		1	1	
Dried Fruit ... ..		3	3	
Fish ... ..	1	1		2
Fish Cakes ... ..		5	5	
Frozen Foods ... ..		3	3	
Glauber Salts ... ..		2	1	1
Ground Almonds ...		1	1	
Ice Cream ... ..		2	2	
Ice Lollies ... ..		6	6	
Margarine and Lard ...		2	2	
Meat Pies ... ..		6	6	
Milk ... ..		2	2	
Milk, Evaporated ...	1	4	4	1
Milk, Fat Free ... ..		1	1	
Milk, Hot ... ..	12		8	4
Preserves ... ..		2	2	
Puddings ... ..		4	4	
Sage and Onion Stuf- fing ... ..		1	1	
Salt ... ..		2	1	1
Sauces, etc. ... ..		6	4	2
Sausages ... ..		12	6	6
Soft Drink ... ..		1	1	
Soups ... ..		3	2	1
Sugar Confectionery ...		4	4	
Wines ... ..	1	3	2	2
	18	128	121	25



A tin of herrings in lobster sauce was found to have a label which was misleading pictorially and the importers were asked to amend the label, which they agreed to do.

A tin of pate de foie pur porc was found to contain a small amount of cereal and the importer was requested to amend the label, which he agreed to do.

A tin of casserole steak was found to be slightly low in meat content. In the opinion of the analyst the deficiency was insufficient for further action.

A packet of cheese and ham spread was found to contain  $62\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. moisture compared with the recommended standard of 60 per cent. Follow up samples were found to be satisfactory after the manufacturers had been contacted.

A packet of cheese spread with pineapple was found to be mouldy but an examination of the remainder of the stock did not reveal a similar condition in any of the remaining packages.

A sample of Glauber salts was found to have deteriorated due to long storage. It contained 38 per cent. of water compared with the B.P. standard of 53.7 per cent. to 56.4 per cent. The remainder of the stock was withdrawn from sale.

A tin of evaporated milk was found to have a fat content of 8.3 per cent. but the formal follow-up sample had 9.1 per cent. fat. Further follow-up samples have all had over 9 per cent. fat.

Twelve formal samples of hot milk were purchased and four were found to be adulterated. The vendor of one sample which contained 35 per cent. extraneous water was fined £20 and costs, two others were fined £10 and costs for samples which contained 14 per cent. and 13.5 per cent. extraneous water. As the fourth sample contained 2.5 per cent. extraneous water the committee decided to issue a caution.

A tin of salt was found to be incorrectly labelled and the manufacturers agreed to amend the label.

Six samples of sausages were found to contain preservative which had not been declared. The vendors were cautioned and advised on proper labelling.

A tin and a bottle of sauce were found to have the contents listed in an incorrect order on the labels. The importers have agreed to amend the labels.



A tin of turtle soup which was purchased for analysis was found to contain a piece of transparent plastic tape. In view of the legal difficulties involved it was decided to caution the manufacturers.

A sample of "sturgeon" was found on analysis to be monkfish. The vendor was cautioned.

The label on a sample of Bombay Duck was found to have one of the ingredients missing from the list of contents. The importers agreed to amend the label.

An informal sample of ruby wine was found to contain 22.9 per cent. proof spirit instead of not less than 26.75 per cent. claimed on the label. A formal follow up sample contained 23 per cent. proof spirit. The bottlers of the wine were fined £15 with £13 costs (1959).

**Unsound Food.**—Quantities and descriptions of food found to be unsound and surrendered for destruction as being unfit for human consumption :—

Bacon and Ham : 78 $\frac{1}{4}$  lbs.

Beef and Lamb : 1,163 lbs.

Butter : 4 lbs.

Cheese : 149 lbs.

Chicken : 23 lbs.

Cooked Ham : 119 lbs.

Desiccated Coconut : 56 lbs.

Frozen Egg : 30 lbs.

Geese : 232 lbs.

Jersey New Potatoes : 12,950 lbs.

Lard and Margarine : 1 lb.

Liver : 196 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

Pork : 355 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

Puff Pastry : 9 lbs.

Rabbit : 54 lbs.

Roasted Peanuts : 11 lbs.

Sausage : 34 lbs.

Scampi : 12 lbs.

Whole Almonds : 12 lbs.

Turkeys : 24 lbs.

Miscellaneous Tinned foodstuffs : 1,816 tins.

Reasons for condemnation were, in the case of canned foods, blown, holed or rusted cans ; in the case of bottled foods, broken glass or defective caps ; in other cases the causes were contamination or decomposition.

**Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.**—1,007 visits were made to food premises resulting in 206 letters being sent calling attention to breaches of the regulations. The list of contraventions remedied as a result of letters sent during the current and previous years shows that the traders have been co-operative in securing the objects of the regulations.

**Food Premises subject to Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.**

Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	87
Hotels	...	...	...	...	21
Hostels and Homes	...	...	...	...	13
Clubs	...	...	...	...	15
Restaurants and cafes	...	...	...	...	44
Church Halls, etc.	...	...	...	...	11
Places of Public Entertainment, etc.	...	...	...	...	9
Grocers	...	...	...	...	66
Bakers and flour confectioners	...	...	...	...	32
Sugar confectioners	...	...	...	...	58
Fishmongers and Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	21
Butchers	...	...	...	...	51
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	30
Chemists	...	...	...	...	17
General shops	...	...	...	...	48
Food factories	...	...	...	...	3
Factory canteens	...	...	...	...	6
Dairies, etc.	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	10
					<hr/> 546 <hr/>

**Contraventions remedied in Food Premises**

Cleanliness of equipment	...	...	...	52
Protection for open food	...	...	...	158
Personal cleanliness	...	...	...	1
Sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	110
Personal washing facilities	...	...	...	119
First Aid Materials	...	...	...	21
Accommodation for clothing	...	...	...	26
Facilities for washing equipment	...	...	...	35
Lighting of food rooms	...	...	...	2
Ventilation of food rooms	...	...	...	17
Cleanliness of food rooms	...	...	...	160
Accumulations of refuse	...	...	...	16
Storage of food	...	...	...	2
Transport and carrying of meat	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	4

## Prosecutions

### *Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Section 2*

1. For selling a Banbury cake containing a piece of wire, fined £5 and costs.
2. For selling a mouldy cake, fined £20.
3. For selling a loaf of bread containing string, fined £20 and costs.
4. For selling a tin of pineapple containing a cigarette end, fined £10 and costs.
5. For selling a mouldy pork patty, fined £50 and costs.
6. For selling a tin of luncheon meat containing an animal's partially digested food, fined £2 10s. 0d. and costs.
7. For selling a mouldy loaf of bread, fined £5.
8. For selling a mouldy loaf of bread, fined £25.
9. For selling a bottle of orangeade containing a fly, fined £5.

### *Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Section 32 (3)*

1. For selling hot milk containing 35 per cent. extraneous water, fined £20 and costs.
2. For selling hot milk containing 14 per cent. extraneous water, fined £10 and costs.
3. For selling hot milk containing 13.5 per cent. extraneous water, fined £10 and costs.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no slaughterhouses in the borough. Butchers continue to use the facilities provided at either Coventry, Birmingham, Stratford-on-Avon or Kenilworth.

Unsound or diseased meat, however, exposed for sale in butchers' shops and elsewhere remains subject to inspection and seizure by the Public Health Inspectors.

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949-53

Licences issued during the year under the above Regulations :

Dealers (Pasteurisers) Licence	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk	...			9
Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk				9
Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk	...			2
Dealers' Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...			47
Dealers' Licences for Pasteurised Milk	...	...		46
Dealers' Licences for Sterilised Milk	...	...		5



Samples of milk were taken regularly for bacteriological examination and the results are set out below :

Designation	No.	Nature of Tests	Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised	71	Phosphatase	71	—	—
		Methylene Blue	59	—	12
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	87	Phosphatase	86	—	1
		Methylene Blue	71	2	14
Tuberculin Tested	72	Methylene Blue	52	20	—
Sterilised	5	Turbidity	5	—	—

As a result of a number of samples of Tuberculin Tested milk failing to pass the Methylene Blue Test, notices were served on two retailers for breaches of a condition of their Dealer's licences. They were informed in the notice that in the event of their committing a further breach of the licence within twelve months they would be liable to prosecution under Section 43 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

## ICE CREAM

There are five premises registered for the manufacture, sale and storage of ice cream but only three were used for manufacture during the year and in all these the ice cream is made from a "cold mix." In addition, there are 169 premises registered for sale and storage only.

Results of the bacteriological examination of samples of ice cream :

Grade 1	...	...	108	} Satisfactory
Grade 2	...	...	4	
Grade 3	...	...	4	} Unsatisfactory
Grade 4	...	...	—	

## WATERCRESS

13 samples of watercress were examined and in 11 cases Bact. coli (Type 1) were reported to be present. The results of the examinations have been sent to the local authorities in whose area the watercress was grown and several have been

co-operative in endeavouring to improve the condition of the product at source. The results have been sent also to the Secretary of the Association of Municipal Corporations with a request that they should be considered by the Health Committee of that body.

**CANAL BOATS**

There are no boats on the Register and none were inspected during the year.

**FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948**

Enforcement of the provisions of these Acts rests with two bodies, the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the Local Authority, there being well-defined duties shared by H.M. Inspector of Factories and by Public Health Inspectors.

For the purposes of the Acts factories are classified as :

- (a) where mechanical power is used, and
- (b) where mechanical power is not used.

Local Authorities are responsible for enforcing the provisions relating to sanitary accommodation in both (a) and (b) but other matters relating to health are only enforced by them in (b), such as cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage in addition to sanitary accommodation.

The following table details the work done by the Public Health Inspectors during the year :

		<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of Inspections</i>
Factories, Class (a)	...	231	138
Factories, Class (b)	...	85	18
Other premises	... ..	14	10
Totals ... ..	...	330	166

Number of cases in which defects were found : 79.

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Sanitary conveniences :		
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective	72	3
(c) Not separate for sexes	5	1
	79	6

## **PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951**

This act is designed to regulate the sale of pet animals.

Local authorities have power to grant licences to persons to keep pet shops which they approve and these licences specify the conditions which must be observed.

There were three licences issued during the year and three inspections were made of the premises.

## **RODENT CONTROL**

### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1951**

1839 inspections of properties were made during the year. The number of infestations treated were as under :—

Private dwellings ...	...	...	...	283
Corporation properties ...	...	...	...	37

The sewers were treated once during the year and the river banks once.

The responsibility for destroying rats and mice rests on owners and occupiers of land. The occupier is required to give notice in writing to the local authority when it comes to his notice that rats or mice are living on or resorting to his land in substantial numbers. The local authority may call upon owners or occupiers to take reasonable steps to destroy rats or mice and to keep their premises free from them.

The department undertakes to destroy rats and mice on private property as a free service, and on business premises at a reasonable charge, but this service does not relieve owners or occupiers of their primary responsibility in the matter.

## **RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951**

This Act is designed to secure the use of clean filling materials in the upholstery and allied trades, and regulations have been made prescribing the standards of cleanliness to which these materials must conform.

No premises were registered or licensed in the borough during the year.

## **MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926**

Regulations made under this Act require shopkeepers to mark certain imported goods or produce with an indication of origin. The manner in which this is to be done is laid down in the regulations. Visits continued to be made to shops, and shopkeepers reminded of the requirements. 18 warning letters were sent for failure to mark tomatoes.



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The department is concerned with two sections of this Act, one whereby persons in need of care and attention can be removed to suitable accommodation and the other which lays on the local authority the duty of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in their area, in any case where no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been made otherwise than by the authority. One person was buried in such circumstances during the year.

### CLEAN AIR

#### Smoke Control Areas

*Smoke Control Area 1.*—This area comprises 202 acres of land in the north west corner of the town which are ripe for housing development. At the time of the survey there were only 63 premises in the area. The decision in principle on the area was made and submitted to the Minister in 1957. Provisional clearance to these proposals was given in February, 1958. The survey of the area followed immediately afterwards. In August a smoke control order was made and submitted for approval. In October the order was confirmed without modifications and comes into operation on 1st July, 1959. The estimated expenses on works of adaptation of fireplaces in private dwellings should not exceed £10.

*Smoke Control Area 2.*—This area comprises 325.25 acres of land in the north-east corner of the town which has been largely developed as a council housing estate and development is still continuing. At the time of the survey there were 1202 premises in the area. The decision in principle on this area was made and submitted to the Minister in 1957. Provisional clearance to these proposals was given in February, 1958. The survey of the area was carried out after the survey of Smoke Control Area 1 had been completed. In November a smoke control order was made and submitted for approval. The estimated expenses on works of adaptation of fireplaces in private dwellings should not exceed £120.

*Smoke Control Area 3.*—This area comprises 5½ acres in the north-west part of the town. The majority of the properties are included in a clearance area and as it is intended to redevelop the whole site eventually, all existing buildings will be excluded. The decision in principle on this area was made and submitted to the Minister in December. There should be no expenses involved on works of adaptation of fireplaces.

*Smoke Control Area 4.*—This area comprises approximately 5 acres in the central shopping centre of the town. There are 124 premises in the area. The decision in principle on this area was made in December.

### **Five Year Programme**

A five year programme for the establishment of 18 smoke control areas has been approved. These areas will comprise a total of 1,500 acres approximately and will contain between 6,000 and 7,000 premises. It is proposed to cover the whole town by smoke control orders not later than 1973.

### **Investigation of atmospheric pollution**

Four deposit gauges, four lead peroxide candles and one daily smoke filter were installed on approved sites and have been operating since 1st July. A report has been submitted by W. M. Lewis, Esq., Analyst to the Warwickshire Clean Air Council which is appended below :

City Laboratories' Service,  
Shortley Road,  
Coventry.

### **Atmospheric Pollution at Leamington Spa**

#### *Introduction*

At the request of the Chief Public Health Inspector of the Borough, I have examined the records of atmospheric pollution analyses made at this Laboratory. The three types of instruments used to measure pollution at Leamington are :—

- (a) Deposit Gauges collecting large smuts and flue grits ;
- (b) Lead Peroxide Candles measuring the activity of Sulphur Dioxide in the atmosphere ;
- (c) Daily Volumetric Apparatus measuring the actual concentrations of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide.

### **Deposit Gauge Results**

Monthly deposits are collected and analysed for total weight and nature of deposit. In the period since the inception of sampling of atmospheric pollution in Leamington by the Warwickshire Clean Air Council, the local gauge receiving the heaviest monthly deposit is Victoria Park Bowling Green site and the best would seem to be Cubbington Pumping Station site. On one occasion only has a Leamington deposit gauge appeared in the list of the six heaviest polluted for the



County. This occasion was September, when this gauge occupied the fifth County position. As compensation, so to speak, Cubbington and Leamington Cemetery gauges for the month of October were the best and second best respectively for the whole County.

The gauge at Victoria Park consistently records deposits which are higher than the average for the County while higher than average results have also been recorded at Milverton Cemetery (July and September).

Some indication of the proportion of Industrial Grit may be made by reference to the insoluble matter in a deposit gauge, and it is interesting to record that the ratios of soluble matter over total deposit for the four gauges, averaged over the six months of operation, are as follows :—

				<i>Range</i>
Milverton Cemetery	...	...	55%	42.4—69.5
Cubbington Pumping Station	...	...	44%	35.8—57.3
Victoria Park Bowling Green	...	...	65%	59.5—67.5
Leamington Cemetery	...	...	43%	26.4—54.5

Observation of the ratio spread for each gauge will at once reveal the consistency with which Victoria Park received industrial pollution, whereas the other three gauges fluctuated appreciably, obviously depending upon wind conditions. The County average ratio is remarkably constant, and varies from 52.1 per cent. to 58.2 per cent. ; so one of the Leamington gauges is consistently above the County average for grit ratio, namely, Victoria Park. Milverton Cemetery is characteristic of the average, whilst the other two gauges are below the County average for grit contamination.

In a further attempt to assess the relative proportions of Industrial and Domestic pollution appearing in the deposits, use is made of the amount of tarry matter in the deposits analysed. Cubbington Road and Leamington Cemetery are characteristic of suburban Britain, having Domestic contributions which obviously vary somewhat each month, but being in December 11 per cent. and 8 per cent. respectively of the whole. Milverton Cemetery receives about one half the domestic pollution which is received in the atmosphere typical of Leamington Cemetery area, and consequently has more industrial contamination. Victoria Park appears to be the exception of the gauges, in that it received only about one per cent. domestic contamination during the same period,



the remainder of the contamination being industrial. This is consistently true for this gauge, according to the results so far to hand, and bears out the high grit ratio previously referred to at this particular site.

Apart from this consistent behaviour, the abnormalities are also of interest. The exceptionally tarry deposit at the Milverton site in September may well be accounted for by tar-spraying in the area or the burning of bituminous material in the locality.

### *Lead Peroxide Candles*

From July to December, the activity of sulphur dioxide in our atmosphere increases, due basically to the increased fuel consumption necessitated by the cold weather. The increase one would imagine would be greatest for the area contaminated by domestic pollutants. Figures produced for the period mentioned by these gauges show the increase for the four sites to be :—

Milverton Cemetery	...	...	From 0.28 to 1.59 Increase 5.7 fold
Cubbington Pumping Station	...		From 0.13 to 2.58 Increase 19.8 fold
Victoria Park	...	...	From 0.77 to 2.51 Increase 3.3 fold
Leamington Cemetery		...	From 0.13 to 1.83 Increase 14.1 fold

This again proves that Cubbington Pumping Station and Leamington Cemetery sites are subject to a high incidence of domestic pollution. Milverton Cemetery is less so, and Victoria Park is almost unaffected. The average County increase for the same period was some 3.8 fold.

The higher incidence of domestic pollution in Cubbington Pumping Station area produces a more fouled atmosphere from this noxious gas, sulphur dioxide, during the winter months, than does the industrial contamination in the Victoria Park area. The corrosion of both stonework and lung tissue is attributed, in part if not whole, to gaseous sulphur dioxide, especially when the atmosphere moisture is at a maximum, as during foggy weather. Only Milverton Cemetery area has an atmosphere which is consistently better in this respect, than the average County atmosphere at large. None of the sites appeared in the list of the six best stations, and on the other hand, no site is included in the list of the six worst sites for the County.

### *Daily Volumetric Apparatus*

This instrument measures simultaneously the daily concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide, and an apparatus of this type is maintained at the Mid-Warwickshire College of Further Education. During the winter, smoke in the atmosphere increases to a larger extent than grit or sulphur dioxide, due to the increased burning of bituminous coal on domestic fires. The Leamington records show that there was an 8-fold increase in Smoke from August to December, accompanied by a 6-fold increase in Sulphur Dioxide. The average County increase for the same period was 6-fold and 4-fold respectively.

In respect of actual concentration, the smoke pollution in Leamington, as measured by this particular Station, is very slightly less than that in the County atmosphere at large, but the sulphur dioxide gases are about the equal of the County average. The highest daily smoke concentration at this Station was recorded on the 29th November, 1958, which was some 6.9 times as great as the highest for August. It is interesting to record that the highest daily sulphur dioxide concentration for this Station, a value 17.7 parts per one hundred million, occurred on the same day. This value is some three and a half times greater than the November average for this Station. A significant fact might be that, during the 24 hours covered by these readings, the weather was indeed dull, misty, and foggy—a typical November day.

1 am,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. M. LEWIS,  
Analyst,

Warwickshire Clean Air Council.

### **Alkali, etc., Works Regulation Act, 1906**

A list of the works in this area which are registered under the Alkali Act has been received from the Ministry of Housing & Local Government. These works are exempted from the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956 and are dealt with by the Alkali Inspectorate.

Appended below is a copy of the list :—

<i>Name of Firm</i>	<i>Works or processes registered</i>
Ford Motor Co. Ltd.	Iron and steel (Tropaenas and electric arc furnaces)
The Leamington & Lillington Brickyard Co. Ltd.	Ceramic (Heavy Clay—reducing atmosphere)
West Midlands Gas Board	Gas liquor, benzene, gas and coke.

## Fuel Exhibition

A small but informative exhibition of appliances and fuels suitable for use in smoke control areas was held in a house on one of the Council Estates. The exhibits were arranged by the Coal Utilisation Council, the East Midlands Electricity Board and the West Midlands Gas Board. Although attendances were small viewers showed considerable interest in the exhibits and were appreciative of the information provided. In order to provide further information to the public a Clean Air Exhibition is being arranged to be held in March, 1959.

## SHOPS ACT, 1950

### Report of the Shops Act Inspector

The Shops Act Inspector is specifically concerned with such matters as closing hours, conditions of employment of shop assistants, hours of employment of young persons, Sunday employment and Sunday Trading, whilst the provisions of the Shops Act relating to the health and comfort of shop workers are the responsibility of the Public Health Inspectors.

Observation tours of the various shopping areas in the town continued throughout the year and included visits made for the following purposes:—

Weekly half holiday closing ... ..	22
Sunday Trading ... ..	16
Evening Closing Hours ... ..	7

There was the usual crop of enquiries regarding the keeping open of shops on the weekly half-holidays before Christmas.

As regards general closing hours at this period the Council again made no order suspending them for the few days before Christmas Day.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year but a number of shop-keepers were verbally cautioned for failing to close on the statutory weekly half-holiday, for failing to exhibit necessary notices and for selling non-exempted articles.

An important ruling on Mobile Shops was made during the year by the Court of Appeal (*Stone v. Boreham*) in the course of which it was stated that "It must be taken as definitely decided in these Courts that a mobile van is not a shop within the meaning of the Shops Act, 1950 and if Parliament desires to make it so it must introduce legislation for the purpose."

The introduction of a complete new Shops Act continues to be long overdue.



TABLE II.

## BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

## VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1958 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1950	36,370	581	16.0	17	29.3	463	12.7
1951	36,520	571	15.7	14	24.5	507	13.9
1952	36,730	601	16.4	13	21.6	461	12.5
1953	37,390	684	18.3	17	24.9	432	11.6
1954	37,800	640	16.2	16	25.0	455	12.0
1955	37,950	697	18.4	19	27.2	459	12.1
1956	38,220	793	20.7	18	22.6	456	12.0
1957	38,940	767	19.4	17	23.6	451	11.6
1958	39,220	825	21.0	19	23.0	433	11.0

## VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1958.

## ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1958.*

*(Provisional Figures).*

## Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births.	Still Births per 1,000 Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	16.4	21.6	11.7	22.5

TABLE III.

## BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR,  
1958.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Plague ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup) ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erysipelas ... ..	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever ... ..	8	.....	1	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Typhus Fever ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric Fever ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pneumonia ... ..	31	.....	4	4	2	9	7	5	.....
Malaria ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery ... ..	2	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	1
Meningococcal Infection ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Whooping Cough ... ..	13	2	10	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles ... ..	19	.....	10	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	36	.....	1	2	10	10	8	5	.....
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5	.....	.....	2	1	2	.....	.....	.....
Food Poisoning ... ..	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Totals ... ..	119	2	28	26	14	23	16	10	1

**TABLE IV.**  
**BOROUGH OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.**  
**CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1958.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	1	—
2 Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	1
3 Syphilitic disease... ..	1	—
4 Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
5 Whooping cough ... ..	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
8 Measles ... ..	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	4	6
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	11	3
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	9
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	3
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms ... ..	27	17
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	1	2
16 Diabetes ... ..	—	—
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	28	41
18 Coronary disease, angina ... ..	43	23
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	4
20 Other heart disease ... ..	28	40
21 Other circulatory disease ... ..	7	8
22 Influenza ... ..	—	—
23 Pneumonia ... ..	12	10
24 Bronchitis... ..	14	7
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	3	2
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	2	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	3	1
29 Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
31 Congenital malformations ... ..	1	4
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	24
33 Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	5	1
34 All other accidents ... ..	8	7
35 Suicide ... ..	2	—
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All causes ... ..	220	213







